

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4114

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS PRAGUE 3276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CZ, YO

SUBJECT: CSSR-YUGOSLAV TRADE PROTOCOL

1. CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALOIS HLOCH AND HIS YUGOSLAV COUNTERPART ALIJA BASIC SIGNED THE TWO COUNTRIES' 1978 TRADE PROTOCOL IN PRAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4. CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL SHIP MACHINERY, ROLLING MILL PRODUCTS, TRUCKS AND CARS, CHEMICALS, TEXTILE PRODUCTS, AND FOOTWEAR WHILE RECEIVING FROM THE YUGOSLAVS AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS, MACHINERY, NON-FERROUS METALS, AND VARIOUS CONSUMER GOODS.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK-YUGOSLAV TRADE HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS WITH A 1976 TURNOVER (THE LAST YEAR FOR WHICH FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE) OF OVER \$650 MILLION. FIGURES CITED ARE BASED ON INFLATED "OFFICIAL" RATE OF \$1 EQUALS 5.55 CROWNS.) CZECHOSLOVAKIASQORMALLY RUNS A SMALL SURPLUS IN THIS EXCHANGE WITH THE \$47 MILLION SURPLUS IN 1976 THE LARGEST YET RECORDED.

3. THE RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE ANNOUNCING THE SIGNING NOTED THAT 1978 SHOULD SEE TWO-WAY TRADE OF \$900 MILLION MORE THAN 1977. THIS FIGURE SEEMS UNCLASSIFIED

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UNREASONABLE IN LIGHT OF THE TRENDS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS. A TOTAL OF \$900 MILLION SEEMS MORE LIKELY, BUT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF THIS REPORT.

4. REGARDLESS OF THE EXACT AMOUNT, TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE RAPIDLY

OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER
LUDOMIR STROUGAL, IN A TOAST TO HIS YUGOSLAV
GUEST OCTOBER 27, NOTED THAT THE VOLUME OF
CZECHOSLOVAK-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION AND SPECIALI-
ZATION EFFORTS IS TO INCREASE FIVE-FOLD OVER
THE NEXT "SEVERAL YEARS." IN 1976 YUGOSLAVIA
WAS CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S SIXTH MOST IMPORTANT TRADING
PARTNER TRAILING ONLY FOUR CEMA MEMBERS AND WEST
GERMANY.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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